

## Message Text

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52

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 OIC-04 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02

DOT-00 IO-12 RSR-01 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 /113 W  
----- 027494

P 101740 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1090

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IMCO, IN

SUBJECT: SELECTION OF IMCO SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: LONDON 5370

1. MENSAH HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S SWITCH IN CANDIDATES. HE CHECKED WITH GHANA HIGH COMMISSIONER ON BASIS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED RUMOR ACCRA WAS WITHDRAWING SUPPORT OF HIS CANDIDACY, BUT HICOMER SAID HE WAS IGNORANT OF ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT. HICOMER WAS IN ACCRA AS RECENTLY AS MAY 4 AND ASSURED MENSAH THAT HE WOULD BE

AWARE OF ANY GOG INTENTION TO CHANGE CANDIDATES. HE NEVERTHELESS IS QUERYING MFA TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY SUBSTANCE TO "RUMOR".

2. WE HAVE MENTIONED MATTER TO NONE OTHER THAN MENSAH HIMSELF. HE CHARACTERIZED SITUATION AS "BIZARRE" BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT WHEN HIS GOVERNMENT IS APPRISED OF CONSEQUENCES OF ATTEMPTING TO SWITCH CANDIDATES, DECISION WILL BE REVERSED. HE POINTED OUT THAT LONDON HICOMER SINCERITY WOULD BE QUESTIONED BY  
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COLLEAGUES SINCE HE TRANSMITTED TO IMCO SYG THE GOG NOMINATION OF MENSAH. HE ALSO LOBBIED LONDON REPS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS ON MENSAH'S BEHALF AND ONLY LAST WEEK TRANSMITTED TO ACCRA RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH LAST TWO SUCH REPS.

3. AS CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER OF IMCO, MENSAH POINTED OUT THAT SIMPLE SUBSTITUTION OF ONE NAME FOR ANOTHER AS GHANA NOMINEE IS NOT POSSIBLE. NOMINATIONS CLOSED APRIL 16 IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF NOVEMBER 13, 1972, AND QUARTEY'S NAME COULD NOT BE PLACED IN NOMINATION UNDER THAT RESOLUTION UNLESS FORTHCOMING COUNCIL VOTED WAIVE ITS TERMS AND PERMIT NOMINATIONS FROM FLOOR. MANSAB FEELS, AND WE WOULD AGREE WITH HIM, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S LAST-MINUTE SWITCH WOULD SIMPLY RESULT IN GHANA'S LOSING ANY CHANCE IT MAY HAVE HAD TO PLACE A NATIONAL AT THE HEAD OF A UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY. ALTHOUGH QUARTEY WELL-KNOWN AND RESPECTED FIGURE IN IMCO CIRCLES, HIS SURPRISE SUBSTITUTION FOR MENSAH WOULD ALIENATE COUNCIL MEMBERS OTHERWISE INCLINED SUPPORT GHANA CANDIDATE.

ANNENBERG

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LONDON05493  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LONDON  
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**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980129  
**Subject:** SELECTION OF IMCO  
**TAGS:** ETRN, IN, ETRN, IMCO  
**To:** ACCRA  
EB  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005